

SEVENTH INSTALLMENT OF ENTIRE LEO. M. FRANK TESTIMONY

Prisoner's Remarkable Four-Hour Address to Jury Is Preceded by Damaging Admission by Factory Girl Character Witness.

ELOQUENCE AMAZES ALL IN COURT

Leo M. Frank, his life hanging on the jury's verdict, begins his own story in to-day's installment of the testimony in the Mary Phagan murder case. This is the first time that Frank's personal statement to the twelve men who were to decide his fate has been published outside of Atlanta, where the former Brooklyn boy was convicted and three times sentenced to death.

As coolly and deliberately as though there were nothing at stake, Frank delivered his remarkable discourse to the dozen jurors. He might have been merely a lecturer or an instructor on the intricacies of compiling a financial sheet for all the signs of emotion or feeling that he displayed in the greater part of his address.

Not a quaver broke his easy, conversational tone. Toward the latter part of his talk he addressed himself more particularly to the many ugly charges that had been made against him aside from the charge of murder. Then his voice was slightly raised and he spoke with repressed earnestness to deny positively every story that had been told on the stand by the negro, Jim Conley, and any other witness.

PRISONER BELIES ACCUSATION.

Save for those infrequent moments, a casual spectator having no knowledge of that which was taking place or had gone before never would have guessed that a man was on trial for his life, accused of having strangled out the life of a little girl, nor would they have recognized in the quiet, self-possessed and rather studious-looking young man in the witness chair the prisoner who was charged with being the author of the atrocious crime.

Yet when Leo Frank left the witness stand at the end of four hours probably no one in the courtroom was unaffected. Southern court annals in capital case record no other statement of such impressiveness as that delivered by Frank.

Tears were in the eyes of the jurors who later, following the Solicitor General's fiery denunciation of the factory superintendent, were to vote that he was the guilty man and should be sentenced to be hanged. His young wife, until then a veritable Spartan woman in sitting unflinchingly as unspeakable accusations were hurled at her husband, collapsed completely as he finished.

The presiding judge, himself affected, brought court suddenly to an end for the day and, as the spectators filed out in unusual silence, they looked upon the wife, her form shaken with uncontrollable sobs, and upon the suffering mother, whose cheeks were wet with tears, but who gave no other sign of her emotions. Between them sat Frank, reassuring them both.

CHARACTER UPRIGHT AND MORAL.

John Ashley Jones, a business man, one of the character witnesses for the defense, testified that Frank was of upright and moral character. On cross-examination he denied he had heard any stories of Frank's misconduct toward girls at the factory. Mrs. Rae Frank of Brooklyn, mother of the prisoner, took the stand to say that Frank had no wealthy relatives in Brooklyn, as the negro Conley had quoted Frank as saying. She created a sensation when she denounced Solicitor Dorsey for his charges of immorality against Frank.

One of the most sensational pieces of testimony in the whole case was that given by the negro woman, Minola McKnight, who swore that she was forced to sign an affidavit against Frank by the threat of the detectives to keep her locked up until she did this.

She said that the entire statement was false and that it was inspired by her husband, Albert McKnight. The first part of the direct examination of E. F. Holloway, day watchman at the pencil factory, concluded last week's installment of the testimony.

Reuben R. Arnold, associated with Luther Z. Rosser in the defense of Frank, brought out the testimony that Holloway always was at the factory on Saturday afternoons and that he never saw women going to Frank's office and never saw Conley hanging about the factory.

Holloway has just testified that he kept a watch all over the factory on Saturday afternoons and never turned over to Conley the watching of the front door, as to-day's installment begins.

Q. Did Conley ever take your place on Saturday afternoon when you were sick? A. I never have been sick a Saturday afternoon since I have been working there.

Q. Mr. Holloway, that elevator shaft, I believe, has just a slide door on the first floor—slide it up there and it's just an open shaft? A. It's an open door that goes up and down by weight.

Q. How far is that shaft from the steps that lead down from the second floor? A. Just guessing at it, I think it is about ten or twelve feet.

Q. It is very dark in there, is it not? A. Yes, sir; have to keep a gas jet burning all the time.

Q. If a girl was coming down those steps and a man was in that dark place by that shaft, would it be a hard or an easy job for him to throw her down that shaft? A. It would be an easy job. He could grab her before she could see him. In other words, she wouldn't be looking at that dark place, she'd be looking toward the door.

Cross-examination by Solicitor Dorsey. Q. Mr. Holloway, have you been to see Mr. Frank in jail? A. I went to see him one time, sir, since he has been there.

Q. Now, do you remember a conversation you had with Kendrick, the night watchman—the former night watchman—over here at the pencil factory some time ago? Do you remember talking to him as to whether or not he would swear that Frank had ever called him during the time he worked as night watchman after Frank had left the factory for the night? A. No, sir.

Q. Didn't you try to get Kendrick to swear that? A. No, sir.

Q. Didn't you tell Kendrick, when he said that that never had been done, that something had been done before they turned up that big club didn't you say, "be sure to come back to-morrow morning to be sure to find something"? A. No, sir; I did not.

Q. Now, when there was a man down here at the factory by the name of Whitfield (Detective L. P. Whitfield), after they had been searching that factory for three or four days trying to find something, the day before they turned up that big club didn't you say, "be sure to come back to-morrow morning to be sure to find something"? A. No, sir; I did not.

The reporter was called, and testified he had talked to both the children for some time, asking them especially when they last had seen Mary. He said Mary told him riding to town with Mary occasionally at other times, but made no mention of being with her the day of the crime.

FRANK'S ASSISTANT WORKED ON REPORTS.

Direct examination by Mr. Arnold. Q. What is your name? A. Herbert G. Schiff.

Q. You are assistant superintendent of the National Pencil factory? A. I have worked in several capacities for the pencil factory.

Q. Well, what was your position at the time of this sad murder? A. I was assisting Mr. Frank.

Q. What were your duties as assistant? A. Why, the work was equally divided; Mr. Frank had a part and I had a part.

Q. Now, when you had anything to do with getting up the statements and keeping the books and getting up the financial sheet, did you have any part in that? A. Yes, sir; I did.

Q. Now, when you had your work performed, A. Right in the room—right in the same office, Mr. Frank and I occupied the same office, the inner office.

Q. How long had it been your habit to make that financial sheet on Saturday? A. Ever since the factory had been in existence. It was a fixed custom.

Q. What part did you take in helping Frank to make that financial sheet? A. Getting up the data—part of the data.

Q. By that do you mean the report? A. Getting up a sheet that we term the factory record; that is, the number of pencils packed for the week, getting up the tip record, the work reports from the different foremen and foreladies; got the flat record from the flat mill, the number of slats delivered to manufacture pencils with, and gave him the totals of the payroll.

Q. Beginning with June of 1912, do you recall up to the first of January of this year, how much time you missed from the factory? A. None at all, except my vacation, the last week in July and the first week in August.

Q. When you were in the city, did you miss any time at all? A. No, sir.

Q. Now, excepting those two weeks, did you miss a single Saturday between the first of June and the first of January of this year? A. No, sir.

Q. What time would you get back to the factory on Saturday afternoons? A. I would usually leave at about 12 o'clock, and get to the factory between 2 and 2:15.

Q. What time did Frank get back on Saturdays? A. He would leave a little while after me, about 1:30, and get to the factory about 2:30.

Q. Do you recall any Saturday last year that Mr. Frank got back earlier than you did? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, when you would go back on Saturday, would you do any of the work on those sheets up to the time that Mr. Frank would get back? A. Yes, sir; I usually began to compile my flat record and get up the pencil sheets.

Q. When Frank would come back on Saturday, would he take it up? A. He would begin as soon as I had turned over the part I had to him—he would go on with his part of the data until I had finished mine, and then he would come back and take up the rest.

Q. Did you work together? A. We did.

Q. Isn't it a fact that you were frequently interrupted Saturday afternoons by men and men of that sort calling on you? A. Yes, sir.

Q. The door was open, wasn't it—the downstairs door? A. Open.

Q. Did you ever look in on you and Frank, when you were working there together? A. No, sir.

Q. I will get you to state whether Mr. Kopelman and people from Montag's office ever came in on Saturday afternoons? A. Very frequently.

Q. In other words, you were liable to be interrupted at any time Saturday afternoons by people on business? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long did you and Frank take to finish that financial sheet on Saturday? A. Why, usually less than half-past 6 or a quarter to 6. It took him about two and a half to three hours.

Q. Would you leave separately or together? A. We would leave together.

Q. Did Mr. Frank's wife come up there some Saturdays? A. Very often.

Q. Do you ever recall on a Saturday, after 2 o'clock, seeing this negro, Jim Conley, in the front on anywhere around the office there? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you and Mr. Frank, or did Frank, have any women up there at the factory on any Saturdays? A. No, sir; we did not.

Q. Did you ever see any women up there? A. No, sir; I did not.

Q. Did you ever see this man Dalton around the factory at all? A. I never saw him.

Frank Studying His Case



Photograph taken in jail of the defendant in the famous murder case. During the trial he spent many hours poring over points in the evidence and his defense.

he said: "I cannot give it to you, and that is all that started me. I don't remember exactly. I think one time he explained to me how terrible the girl looked, and the other time that they turned him in to the undertaker in the dark room and threw on the light. He said he was awfully shaken up by the way they rushed him into the room." A. He did.

Q. What did he say about his breakfast? A. He said that was one of the reasons he was nervous, he hadn't had any breakfast, wanted a cup of coffee.

Q. Didn't you try to discharge Conley and didn't Frank overrule you and keep him there? A. No, sir; he did not.

Q. Did you try to tell Conley of because he was no account, and didn't Frank keep him there? Then didn't you change mind from running the elevator to something else? A. No, sir.

Q. Who did you ever talk to about Conley's general worthlessness? A. It was mostly talked to me.

Q. Well, did you think enough of all those complaints to let them to Mr. Frank's attention? A. I don't know whether we ever discussed Conley or not.

Q. Why, Mr. Schiff, looking after the business of the National pencil factory and complaints from all these people about a man you had hired to do work, and that you didn't take it up with your superintendent, A. I was not in the factory.

Q. Didn't you state in this paper that Frank referred once or twice to his nervousness? A. I did not.

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I have put to you for further examination if it ever is questioned, or calling in another chemist to assist in it. A. Well, there is a certain rule in chemistry, and that is that if anybody is put in jeopardy of life that a medical man who is called upon to make such a test will preserve half of the specimens; in other words, not use any more than half. That is for the purpose of permitting another medical man, if desired, to check up his work and his tests; and not only that, but to permit him, if necessary, to check his own work and to prove the results of his own experiments on account of the great uncertainty of them. The usual rule, as I have always understood it, and have always practiced it when I made examinations for the coroner, is that the entire specimen should not be disposed of, but that at least half of it should be preserved for the purpose. I have stated.

Q. Westmoreland said that Dr. Harris's opinion that Mary Phagan had suffered violent death, and that it took place within five to fifteen minutes of her death, was "about the rashest conclusion" of which he ever had heard.

Cross-examination by Solicitor Dorsey. Q. What is your personal feeling toward Dr. Harris, kindly or otherwise? A. I have none at all, one way or the other.

Q. You were associated with him on the State Board of Health? A. I was president of the board at the time he was secretary.

Q. Are you still on the board? A. No, sir.

Q. Is he still secretary? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long were you associated together there? A. I think a little over six years.

Re-direct examination by Mr. Arnold. Q. You were asked about your feelings toward Dr. Harris, and you said that he was now on the State Board, where he is now? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the trouble you had with him; what was it about? A. I did not have any trouble. I preferred to have him as a member of the board, and he was found guilty, and when they would not remove him I resigned.

Q. You are still professor of surgery at Cornell University? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Dr. Harris is not connected with that at all? No, sir.

Q. Do you believe that he is the same man now that he was formerly? A. I know that he is not.

Q. Has he ascended or descended? A. I don't know whether I could answer it that way. Dr. Harris five years ago would not have done things he did two years ago. Those things are all matters of record.

Q. Whatever that row might have been, has that got anything to do with your opinion in this case? A. I know that he is not.

Q. J. C. Olmstead, another expert for the defense, gave testimony similar to that of Dr. Westmoreland. A physician would be impossible to arrive at the conclusions Dr. Harris reached by any of the methods known to science, and it is my opinion that the opinion that cabbage no better masticated than that eaten by Mary Phagan might remain in the stomach ten or twelve hours. "It is such a guess that I do not know how to characterize it," he said when asked about Dr. Harris's estimate.

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In the fall of 1902 I entered Cornell University, where I took the course in mechanical engineering. I was graduated after four years, in June, 1906. I then accepted a position with the B. F. Sturtevant Company of Hyde Park, Mass. After remaining with this firm about six months I returned once more to my home in Brooklyn, where I accepted a position as testing engineer and draftsman with the National Electric Company of Brooklyn.

I remained in this position until about the middle of October, 1907, when, at the invitation of some citizens of Atlanta, I came South to confer with them in reference to the starting and operation of a pencil factory to be located in Atlanta. After remaining here about two weeks I returned to New York, and engaged passage and went